

VIA AIR POUCH

RYBAT
PBSUCCESS
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CLASSIFICATION

DISPATCH NO. []-358

TO : CHIEF, WHD

DATE 18 December 1953

FROM : []

SUBJECT: General - Operational Intelligence
Specific- Jorge RIEDEL Grosse

REF: []0706, 0707, 0709, 0846 and []93.

1. Jorge RIEDEL Grosse, appeared at this office 15 December 1953, and purported to have made a special trip from Guatemala to reveal the latest developments of the Partido Unificacion Anti-Communists, (PUA), an organization RIEDEL claims now has 3,500 members in Guatemala City (see []93). He stated the leaders of the group are Clemente MARROQUIN Rojas, Manuel LISANDRO Berganza, Col. Gazalo YERISTA or (YWISTA) and RIEDEL, himself. Associated with these four are Colonel Otomiel GANBOA with 3,000 men at Salama; Colonel Ernest RAMIREZ with 7,000 men in Puerto Barrios; and Joaquin MONTENEGRO P., who will lead the aforementioned 3,500 men in Guatemala City.
2. Subject asserted the original plan (see []93) has been changed since the leaders became convinced Guatemala City should be captured first. The group now hopes to obtain 1500 men and equipment from TRUJILLO. It is planned 400 to 600 members of the PUA would capture the airport and permit troops and equipment from TRUJILLO to land. (See attachment A.). The 1500 Dominicans would divide into two units, one of which would attack the National Palace, (target C of attachment A), while the second would attack the military installation located at 2nd Street and Independence Ave. (Target B.). PUA troops would seize and control routes to targets and also function as support units. PUA members would also be deployed to disperse the Communists before they could unite as combat groups.
3. RIEDEL inquired the whereabouts of Alfred C. PEPPARD and asked if he had been able to obtain PBPRIME approval for the assistance of TRUJILLO. He stated PEPPARD had offered to attempt securing such approval as well as assistance in obtaining an interview with TRUJILLO. RIEDEL was told emphatically PBPRIME does not participate in activities involving internal affairs of other countries and could not assist such an effort. However, the circumstances were such it would be necessary to forward his statement to superiors and he would be notified if there was any reply. He gave his address as Callejon Manchen #16 or, under the new numerical system, Callejon Manchen 4-09. It was carefully reiterated no intervention could be expected by the ODYOKE in the internal affairs of Guatemala or any other country. Subject stated one of their members had talked with TRUJILLO in Washington about 6 weeks ago and was told by TRUJILLO if their group could obtain PBPRIME approval he, TRUJILLO, would be delighted to assist the PUA. RIEDEL could not supply the name of this person but offered to secure it if we were interested. RIEDEL appeared disappointed at the lack of definite commitment, but stated he would return in a month or so to see if there was any answer. He stated many of the PUA members were anxious to put an end to the Communists regime immediately and desired to start sabotage immediately. He was tactfully cautioned "from an old soldier" it would be most foolish to initiate an uprising

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with out proper arms; supplies and support.

4. RIEDEL stated the reason for his visit to the Embassy here rather than Guatemala was because the American Embassy in Guatemala was constantly watched and information from it was leaking to the Guatemalan Government. MARROQUIN had told him of giving information to Ambassador Rudolph SCHOENFELD which, as well as the source, was known to the Guatemalan Government within three days. Roca COLINDRES, Former Chief of the Guatemalan Secret Police who committed suicide, warned MARROQUIN the Guatemalan Government had knowledge of the visit and the information passed thereat. RIEDEL stated there was another such incident and assumed the American Embassy was aware of this matter. RIEDEL also asserted the Guatemalan Army G-2 was aware of PBPRIME assistance to Guatemalan exiles in San Salvador and had instructed their new Military Attache to El Salvador, Col. marco Antonio VARGAS, to watch the American Embassy here. VARGAS has replaced Major Rene VALENZUELA, who has returned to Guatemala. (see [] 106). VARGAS told Colonel Gonzalez URIETA, a member of the PUA, the Guatemalan Army G-2 had maintained close watch on activities of exiled Guatemalans in San Salvador. VARGAS said this included a daily itinerary of Colonel Ydigoras FUENTES, an anti-Communist exiled in El Salvador. RIEDEL stated VARGAS was not actually a Communist and had taken the position because of financial difficulties. RIEDEL further asserted his organization hoped to establish close working arrangements with VARGAS.
5. RIEDEL made the following comments regarding Guatemala political activity:
 - a. Three new Guatemalan agents have been sent to Salvador under guise of Political refugees since the Salama uprising. This was accomplished by arresting the agents and then permitting them to escape prison; take refuge in the Salvadoran Embassy; and thus gain entrance to El Salvador. He stated one such agent took asylum in the Salvadoran Embassy during the last 15 days of April 1953, but otherwise he could not provide their names.
 - b. Colonel Roberto BARRIOS Pena has covert contacts with the Guatemalan Government and was hence not trusted by PUA.
 - c. The Czechslovakian Attache in Guatemala is paid \$400 per month for reporting to the Guatemalan Government on matters of interest.
 - d. The real purpose of the Russian Commerical Attache's recent trip to Guatemala was a visit to the Puerto Barrios vicinity to reconnoiter a secluded location to unload Russian sea borne arms.
 - e. His group is informed Carlos PRIO Socoras also has connections with the present Guatemalan Government and can be expected to work closely with it.
 - f. His group had information TRUJILLO gave \$150,000 to General FUENTES which he

- can not account for.
- g. Communists are now circulating leaflets in Guatemala instructing all capitalists and anti-Communist be killed in the event of revolution. Subject states this is identical with leaflets used by the Communists during the Spanish Civil War.
 - h. Former President AREVALO of Guatemala displayed a check for 14 million dollars to friendly Chilean Communists during his recent visit to Chile.
 - j. It is believed FIGUERES will support Guatemala at the Caracas Convention. AREVALO assisted FIGUERES during the revolution in Costa Rica and, in reciprocation, FIGUERES will support the Guatemalan Government which is now seeking support from all Latin American countries for the Caracas Convention.
6. RIEDEL asserts 50 Guatemalan Communists came to San Salvador under the cover of religious pilgrims but were actually here to interfere with the 14th of December celebrations. He contended these people were largely responsible for the unruliness of the crowd. He further asserted Communists from Guatemala have established 150 cells of 3 members each in El Salvador, the majority of which are located in Ahuachapan, Sonsanate, and along the Guatemalan border.
7. Source was queried about allegations of Communist sympathy against Colonel Jose Alberto MEDRANO, Chief of Salvadoran Detectives. RIEDEL stated MEDRANO asked him to bring to Salvador copies of Guatemalan Communist publication "Octubre". After delivering two bundles, the supply ceased without notice. This, plus a warning by MARROQUIN not to put too much trust in MEDRANO, appears to be the basis for RIEDEL'S contention MEDRANO is in the pay of Guatemala and, hence, the allegation would appear largely speculation. However, it is noted in his earlier statement, (see []-93) he listed Roca COLINDRES as the basis for his opinion.
8. RIEDEL stated he proposed to visit President OSORIO, but being unable to secure an audience on his last visit, he had preferred this time to see Minister of Defense Colonel Oscar BOLANOS. However, the recent resignation of BOLANOS as Defense Minister had thwarted his plan.
9. RIEDEL explained his group was now ready for action and would appreciate PBPRIME making possible the supply of arms to them. He repeatedly assured the undersigned of complete cooperation with PBPRIME should his group be successful. Source stated he had spent more than \$12,000 of personal monies in re-organizing this anti-Communist group. After being told PBPRIME could not, and would not, assist revolutionary attempts within Guatemala, Subject still appeared to accept this only as an official position and to assume PBPRIME assistance might actually be forth coming. He said he would return within a month or so to see if assistance could be given his group.

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10. Great care was taken to assure no encouragement was given Subject and the position assumed that, as an ODACID Officer, his information must be obtained and forwarded Washington as routine procedure by the undersigned.
11. Some of the substance above recited could logically constitute material for an Intelligence Report. It is, however, the conclusion of the undersigned and the [] that greater operational facility is provided the PBSUCCESS staff by presenting the matter en toto in one dispatch. Advise would be appreciated if this approach is a desire one.
12. Attached to the original hereto are copies of marked maps and planning papers which Subject insisted on leaving, without too prohibitive protest from undersigned, with until his next visit to []

[]
PHILLIP L. PURWELL

COMMENTS BY []

1. Peter D. HARPOLD and Oliver N. DIGGONY have improvised an efficient "bugging" apparatus from a Speak-O-Phone unit. On future occasions we shall be able to record entire conversations verbatim.
2. The [] has capacity to undertake any of the following, should Headquarters so desire and instruct us:
 - a. Gain contact with Subject locally through use of an American cut-out;
 - b. Gain contact with Subject locally through use of an indigenous cut-out;
 - c. Continue direct contact through plea that our superiors desire greater detail; or
 - d. Apprise Jacob R. SEEKFORD of Subject's address so PBFORTUNE mechanism can explore further.

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CHARLES F. RENNELL

INCLOSURES:

1. Attach A, Map showing targets.
2. Attach B, Draft of operation
3. Attach C, Identity papers Subject

18 December 1953
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DISTRIBUTION:

3 Wash
2 File

FORM NO. 51-28A
MAR 1949

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